

ILLEGIB

18 June 1963

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Status of Soviet Forces in Cuba

1. Since mid-February, about 5,300 Soviet personnel have been observed leaving Cuba on Soviet passenger ships. Most of these personnel appeared to be military personnel. A recent report indicates that some Soviets departed on a passenger/freighter Kooperatzia. The last large withdrawal of Soviet personnel occurred on 14 and 15 March when the Maria Ulanova and the Admiral Nakhimov departed with over 1,300 Soviet personnel. Since the end of March six passenger ships have departed with 1,300 Soviets. In June only one passenger ship has departed with Soviet passengers (65). The pattern of Soviet passenger ships appears to have returned to the normal schedule observed prior to mid-February.

2. Some Soviet personnel have arrived since mid-February, but we have no acceptable evidence that more than a few hundred at most have arrived to replace those being withdrawn. On 7 June 100-120 "agricultural specialists" arrived on the Baikal.

3. We believe the current total Soviet military personnel strength in Cuba is about 12,000 to 13,000. There is no indication that the Soviets have withdrawn any significant quantities of military equipment since the strategic missiles and jet bombers were removed last fall.